Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 01528 241605Z

43
ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
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AMEMBASSY DAKAR
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AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 1528

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, SS, IV
SUBJ: IVORIAN GOVERNOR OS BCEAO: ABDOULAYE FADIGA

REF: A) DAKAR 0937 B) ABIDJAN 10197

1. FADIGA, WHO IS WELL-KNOW TO EMBASSY, IS DEVOUT MOSLEM
AND WELL-EDUCATED, KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUAL. IS REPUTED
TO HAVE BEEN OUSTANDING STUDENT BOTH IN IVORY COAST AND
FRANCE, BUT RADICAL POLITICAL VIEWS. THESE VIEWS
LED TO HIS ARREST FOR POLITICAL AVTICITIES IN 1960'S
(1963-1966,) BUT SINCE THAT TIME HE, LIKE OTHER "JEUNE
CADRE". SMMES TO HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY "CO-OPTED"
INTO SYSTEM. CLEMENCY MEAUSRES TAKEN Y
HOUPHOUET IN 1966 SECURED RELEASE OF FADIGA AND
OTHERS. AS MANY WELL-DECUATED IVORIANS WERE AMONG
GROUP PROTESTING GOVERNMENT ACTIVITES, PRESIDENT SOUGHT WASY
TO RE-INTEGRATE THESE LEADERS INTO GOVERNING SYSTEM.

2. FADIGA'S LATER SERVICE AS DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND
OPERATIONS AT CAISSE DE STABILISATION(CSSPPA THE
MARKETING BOARD FOR COCOA AND COFFEE) SUBSEQUENT MOVE
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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 01528 241605Z

TO DIRECTOR OF THE SAME ORGANIZATION; AND RECENT APPOINTMENT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

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TO THE BCEAO INDICATES WILLINGNESS OF HOUPHOUET TO USE
HIS BEST PEOPLE EVEN IF THEY HAVE OPPOSED STATED GOVERNMENT
POLICY IN THE PAST. FADIGA HAS COMMENTED PUBLICLYON HIS
ROLE AS A STUDENT LEADER IN THE 1960'S AND REITERATED THAT
STUDENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY WAS NECESSARY AT THAT TIME
EFFECT A NECESSARY CHANGE IN PARTY'S (PDCI-RDA) RULING
HIERARCHY. HE IMPLIED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS COURSE IS
NOT NECESSARY NOW TO IVORIAN STUDENTS.

3. IN ADDITION TO ACTIVITIES AT CSSPPA, FADIGA HAS BEEN
MEMBER OF PDCI-RDA'S STEERING COMMITTEE AND ON THE
BOARDS OF THE BNDA (AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK); SONAFI,
(THE EXTERIOR FINANCE COMMITTEE OF IVORY COAST); SODEPALM,
(THE PARASTATAL COMPANY DEVELOPING PALM OIL PRODUCTION) AND
SEVERAL OTHER SMALL PARASTATAL GROUPS.

4. FADIGA VISITED US UNDER LEADER GRANT PROGRAM IN 1971.
DURING THAT VISIT HE LOOKED AT US TEXTILE INDUSTRY INDUSTRY AND
COTTON CULTIBATION METHODS; COFFEE AND COCOA PROCESSING
OPERATIONS; AND UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS.
BESIDES THAT TRIP, FADIGA HAS VISITED EAST COAST ON
NUMEROUS OCCASIONS FOR BUSINESS WITH CSSPPA OFFICE
IN NEW YORK, US BANKERS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

5. HAS OFTEN SERVED ON IVORIAN DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL
COMMODITY CONFERENCES. FADIGA IS NO STRANGER TO
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND HAS CAPABLY LED MANY
DELEGATIONS HIMSELF. WITH BRAZIL, IVORY COAST PLAYED
KEY ROLE IN DEMOLISHING INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT
IN 1968 BEFORE IVORY OCAST MOVED INTO MAJOR PRODUCER
POSITION. STRATEGY PROVED TO BE WISE FOR IVORIANS WHO
ARE NOT THIRD/FOURTH RANKED EACH YEAR IN WORLD COCOA
PRODUCTION AND COULD NET LEARGER SHARE OF QUOTA PIE IF INTER-
NATIONAL AGREEMENT EVER GETS OFF THE GROUND.

6. GOIC HAS MUCH FAITH IN FADIGA'S LEADERSHIP ABILITY
AND KNOWLEDGE OF ECONOMICS. TO DATE, HIS BACKGROUND
HAS SERVED HIM WELL. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIVE HE WILL
BE AN ENERGETIC, ACTIVE GOVERNOR OF THE BCEAO AND
WILL BROADEN THE INFLUENCE OF THE PARTICIPATING FRANCOPHONE
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PAGE 03 ABIDJA 01528 241605Z

STATES WHEREVER AND WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

7. NEITHER FADIGA NOR HIS WIFE SPEAK ENGLISH. MRS. FADIGA
IS NOT AS WELL-EDUCATED AS HER HUSBAND, BUT HAS BECOME
PROGRESSIVELY MORE SELF-CONFIDENT IN RECENT YEARS AS
HIS ROLE DEMANDED IT.
DIAMANTI

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